



From the Desk of Howard
County Councilmember
Dr. Calvin Ball

January 2015

The Calvin Ball Bulletin

Construction Edition

Welcome!

In an effort to keep you informed, it's my pleasure to share a list of projects currently construction around our community and their respective timelines, where available. These projects may cause delays, so I encourage you to stay tuned, plan ahead and use caution when driving.

Have questions about an ongoing construction project in your neighborhood? Please reach out to me so I can look into it for you!

Please feel free to share this information with your neighbors. If you have ideas on projects within District Two or Howard County you'd like to see within this newsletter, please email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov or my Special Assistant Kim Pruim at kpruim@howardcountymd.gov.



Oakland Mills-Based Projects

Thunder Hill Rd at Rt175

The County has constructed a crosswalk and the missing sidewalk in front of Walgreens. I'm thrilled to have worked with SHA, and our County engineers to improve walkability and pedestrian safety in Oakland Mills.

Blandair Park Interchange from Rt 175

This project will construct an interchange directly from Rt175 into Blandair Park, reducing traffic coming into Oakland Mills and our local roads.

The County has received construction bids, we have awarded the contract and a Notice to Proceed could be issued in February/March 2015, weather permitting. The timeframe of this project and the alignment of Oakland Mills Road is approximately two years to construct.

Stevens Forest Rd/White Acre Streetscape

To reinvest in Oakland Mills and our Village Center, I've been working with the County and the OM Village Board to develop a streetscape project that supports our Master Plan. On **Wednesday, November 12, 2014 at 7pm** at The Other Barn, the County's Department of Planning and Zoning held public meeting on the 30% design plans, which was approved by the OM Board on June 10, 2014. Concept Plan 1 includes storm water management facilities, sidewalks, pedestrian crossings, shared bike lanes, lightings, preservation and plantings of trees, roadway medians, on-street parking and relocated bus shelters. Plans are currently under review by County agencies.

Blandair Park Water & Sewer Extension

This project, located in Long Reach, is being performed under Capital Project W-8319 and includes 2,200 linear feet (LF) of sewer & 2,000 LF water main. Relatedly, 1,300 LF of the Spring House Creek will be restored under Capital Project J-4237; 790 LF of which is located in CA open space at this location. Water/sewer has been constructed through CA's open space. We are now working to extend that through Blandair Park and are currently waiting on a grading permit and a PO to start stream restoration work in the open space. Due to weather, we hope to start this project Spring 2015.

The forthcoming restoration work includes a degree of reforestation outside the limits of the water and sewer easement. For details, contact Paul DiMarco at pdimarco@howardcountymd.gov.

Oakland Mills Rd Realignment at Blandair Park

This project will construct a roundabout at the intersection of Oakland Mills Rd and Old Montgomery and realign Oakland Mills Rd in the park. The timeframe of this project is approx. 22 months and we anticipate work to begin Spring 2015, weather permitting. Motorists may experience detours. As part of construction in Blandair, a bridge will be constructed over Route 175 connecting to the northern portion of the Park. Once that is complete, the entrance to Blandair Park from Sohap will be closed, reducing resident concerns about increased traffic and speeding on Oakland Mills neighborhood streets.

Rt 175 at Tamar

SHA and the County will construct modifications along the south side of Tamar Drive to reduce U-turns made by motorists that cause safety concerns. This project should be underway in the Spring of 2015, weather permitting.

Rt 29 Widening Project

Phase IA Extension of Old Columbia Road

This project is currently under construction and includes utility relocation and new roadway clearing. The extension of Old Columbia Road to Twin Knolls Road will permit SHA to close the at grade intersection at US 29 northbound. This project is expected to be completed by February 2015, weather permitting.

Phase 1B NB US29 Third Lane Widening & Noise Wall Construction

Construction has begun and the project is anticipated to be complete in September 2016, weather permitting. SHA is still in negotiations with the two remaining property owners on Gales Lane.

Noise walls will be constructed along the east side of NB US29 from Seneca Drive to MD175. To facilitate the construction of the noise walls to the south of the exit ramp from NB US29 to EB MD 175, the ramp must be relocated approximately 300feet to the north. During this time, traffic will be detoured to the west MD175 exit ramp and directed around the loop ramps of the MD175 interchange to return to east MD175.



MD103 at Wesley/Old Stockbridge

Due to traffic concerns expressed to SHA and my office, SHA is proposing a traffic signal project to include left-turn phasing along eastbound and westbound MD103, pedestrian control signals, and crosswalk pavement markings along the west leg of MD103 and Old Stockbridge Dr. At this time, SHA does not have any right of way needed to begin construction.

Rt 103 @ Long Gate

This proposed project will be located on Rte 103/ Montgomery Road next to the YMCA across from the Long Gate Shopping Center. It would allow for the construction of up to 79 townhomes with the maximum density of 111 townhomes. SHA is working with the property owner to install the missing sidewalk portion and possible installation of a light.

Due to school overcrowding, the developer cannot proceed; however, SHA may choose to construct the missing portion of the sidewalk in the interim near the Gatherings though at this time, there is no funding for the project. A public meeting will be held but none have been scheduled at this time.

Rt 175 at Dorsey Run Rd

The County is scheduled to finish the corrections to the ADA ramps at the intersection that were left unfinished and are awaiting approval from SHA. The County has a requirements contract in place so work can begin once we receive SHA approval. The County is still awaiting SHA ADA approval.



Snowden River Park & Ride

This project will include the addition of 96 parking spaces. Construction work has begun, grading is complete. we anticipate work to be complete in the early Spring.

Oakland Mills Rd Tunnel Lighting Improvements

In response to concerns expressed to my office about the safety of residents using the tunnel located under Oakland Mills Road, I've coordinated the installation of lights to promote safety. A proposal has gone out and if no unforeseen complications arise, we hope this project can be complete by the beginning of February, weather permitting.

Dorsey Run Rd Water Ext.

A new water main will be installed between Henkels Lane and Junction Drive on Dorsey Run Road. The project is expected to be completed by the end of January 2015. For questions or concerns about this project, contact Lisa Brightwell at 410-313-3440.

Whiskey Bottom Rd Backup Generator

SHA is in the process of constructing a backup generator on Whiskey Bottom Road for its traffic signals. The project should be completed by early 2015. SHA is also considering a Hanover site.



Below you will find updates on construction projects occurring along the Route 1 corridor.

Route 1 Fire Station



A Fire Station will be constructed in the Route 1 corridor north of Route 175 near Montevideo Rd. The County has completed design work and is currently working to finalize land development and acquisition.

Rt 1: Rt 175 to Montevideo

This is a State Highway project to widen Route 1 near the intersection of Route 175 and make other improvements as needed. Currently, SHA is **finalizing** an MOU that will among many things, coordinate right-of-way land acquisitions necessary for the project and collaborate with BGE to relocate the utility poles. Plats are being developed to address the r/w line needed to relocate the utility poles.

Rt 1 at Assateague Dr

This SHA and County collaboration was initiated as a request from my office to help improve walkability and pedestrian safety. Specifically, the County will construct a sidewalk along Assateague Dr from the Rt 1 right-of-way (ROW) line to the end of the existing sidewalk (900+ft). Utility issues have been identified, which they are trying to resolve. SHA has agreed to construct a crosswalk on the north side of the intersection. Currently working on design; however utility issues have been identified. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2015, weather permitting.

Rt 1 Sidewalk, Crestmount to Cedar

At my request, SHA will coordinate efforts to improve pedestrian improvements in this area. Specifically, SHA will construct a missing portion of sidewalk along Route 1 from Crestmount south to Cedar. The County will arrange for a public meeting; however, no date has been selected.

Route 1 at Montevideo Rd

This project will include the relocation of Montevideo Road to align with Port Capital Drive. SHA anticipates this project will likely proceed before the US1 widening. The plans are approx. 65% complete and are working through SHA comments. The County is working with the Utility companies to ensure we can relocate a pole near the proposed new intersection.



Route 1 at Ducketts Ln

To address safety concerns, SHA installed a full color traffic signal control at Route 1 and Ducketts Lane. The signal became fully active on Thursday, December 11, 2014.

Multi-Use Pathway: Phase 2, 3 and 4

As part of the Downtown Columbia redevelopment legislation, it requires Howard Hughes to construct a multi-use pathway from Howard County General Hospital to Blandair Park. (CEPPA 12) Phase 2, 3 and 4 were approved by the Planning Board on November 20, 2014. The existing pathway will be widened and vegetation alongside the path will be pruned for security as necessary. Intersections and crosswalks will be designed to accommodate and mark pedestrian traffic and include appropriate signage. Additional lights will be installed to increase visibility and safety for pedestrians and bicyclists. The developer is currently working to obtain necessary easements to move forward with this project.

Merriweather at Symphony Woods

The planning board acted to approve Merriweather Park at Symphony Woods for Phase I and 2 and future phases 3-7 for the uses, locations and general design of the features proposed in all phases on the condition that additional County review and Planning Board approval will be required for final design details prior to obtaining grading or building permits for phases 3-7. They are currently working on obtaining developer agreements.

Deep Run ES Addition / Renovation

Construction on Phase I has begun and will include a 2 story classroom addition in the rear of Deep Run Elementary School building as well as an Administrative suite with secure vestibule in the front. HCPSS anticipates completion in Summer 2015.

Thank You For Following Along!

I hope you have found this information useful. If there are any projects you would like to see included within this newsletter, please email me at cball@howardcountymd.gov.

All the best,



Dr. Calvin Ball
Councilmember, District 2
Howard County Council

"Unity is strength... when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved. ~
Mattie Stepanek